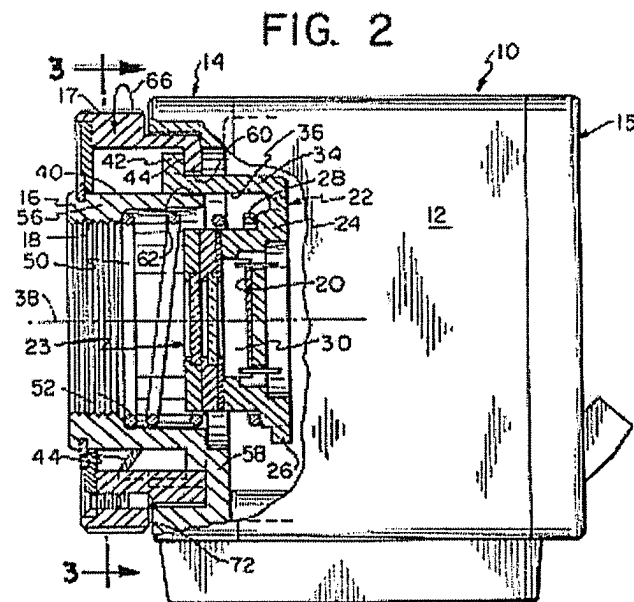


REMARKS

Claims 1 to 20 are currently pending in the present application. Claims 11-20 have been added. No new matter is added by the amendments.

Claims 1 to 9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by US Patent 5,032,919 to Randmae (herein referred to as Randmae '919). Randmae does not disclose or suggest the features of claims 1 to 9, including the locking structure allowing the foot to slide along an inner surface of the lens holder while preventing any rotation of the foot with respect to the lens holder. Randmae describes a lens mount having an outer cylindrical bearing surface on which symmetrically spaced carrier bearings slide when the focusing ring is turned. (Randmae Abstract). The carrier bearings have cam followers 42 which must slide along ramps in the focusing ring 17 in order to effect movement of the lens and imaging device as shown in FIG. 2:



As such, Randmae does not disclose or suggest the feature of claims 1-9 of the locking structure allowing the foot to slide along an inner surface of the lens holder while preventing any rotation of the foot with respect to the lens holder.

Claim 10 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Randmae '919. Claims 10-15 include the feature of the lens holder having a wall and a base defining an inner volume, wherein the base has an opening therethrough, and wherein the lens is positioned in the inner volume of the lens holder against the base and adjacent to the opening. As can be seen from FIG. 2 of Randmae shown above, a lens (not shown in Randmae) would be threadingly engaged with the lens mount 16 and does not disclose or suggest the features of claims 10-15.

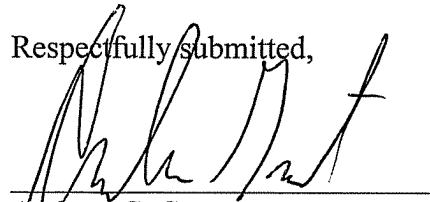
With respect to claims 16-20, Randmae does not disclose or suggest the features of the lens holder and the foot being connected by a snap connection, wherein the coupling structure comprise a flange on the foot as well as a flange on the lens holder, wherein both flanges comprise a contact surface, and wherein the contact surfaces abut against each other when the lens is at a maximum axial distance from the image sensor chip. The lens mount 16 and carrier 12 remain connected due to the bias of the spring 50 and the ramps of the focusing ring being engaged with the cams of the carrier.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that the specification, the drawings and all claims presented in this application are currently in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request favorable consideration and that this application be passed to allowance. Should any changes to the claims and/or specification be deemed necessary to place the application in condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned to discuss the same.

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Reply to Office Action of September 24, 2007

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Respectfully submitted,



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